COLORADO SPRINGS

GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

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This is the kind of solution I could embrace. Dan

UPDATE

Gay rights compromise offered

Community leaders hope to restore peace in Springs

By **Rich Laden**/Gazette Telegraph

Hoping to end the war over gay rights, a group of Colorado Springs business and civic leaders is drafting an alternative to Amendment 2 that tries to protect homosexuals from discrimination without granting them extra rights.

Details of the proposal are sketchy, but essentially it would attempt to appease gays and lesbians by banning discrimination against them. It also would try to placate Amendment 2 supporters by denying homosexuals any rights beyond those enjoyed by heterosexuals.

Supporters hope to gather enough petition signatures to put their measure on an election ballot in November. If passed, Amendment 2 would be repealed and the new version substituted in its place.

Amendment 2, which bans laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation, was passed Nov. 3 by 53 percent of state voters. However, a Denver judge last month blocked Amendment 2 from taking effect until a trial later this year to determine its constitutionality.

The revised proposal is being drafted by Greg Walta, a local lawyer and Amendment 2 opponent. Among its backers is Marvin Strait, who heads one of the city's more prominent accounting firms. Supporters also hope to enlist broad-based support from both sides of the Amendment 2 controversy.

Backers hope a proposal coming from Colorado Springs — the birthplace of Amendment 2 — would send a message to the rest of Colorado that consensus is possible on the divisive issue of gay rights.

And, by passing an alternative to Amendment 2, supporters hope to end the costly economic and travel boycott of Colorado that many groups and celebrities have urged to protest the measure.

Several groups have canceled meetings in Colorado, taking with them more than $10 million in expected business for hotels, restaurants and stores. Among the more notable groups was the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which yanked its June convention from Colorado Springs and moved it to New York City.

By reaching a middle ground on gay rights, supporters of the revised proposal also hope to end bickering by those on both sides of the issue.

"Anybody who looks at Colorado Springs knows that we can't go on for the next 10 years

See **PROPOSAL**/A3

■ Voters in Telluride defy Amendment 2/**B1**

DIGEST

HEALTH

▶ **DREAMS CAN BE DANGEROUS:** A study has found that the periods of sleep when dreams occur kick the body into high gear — the heart speeds up, the blood pressure climbs — possibly triggering heart attacks./**A4**

NATION

▶ **CASH FROM HEIST RECOVERED:** The $8.2 million robbery of an armored truck company was solved Wednesday when almost all of the cash was found in a closet and three men were arrested, authorities said in New York./**A7**

WORLD

▶ **LARGE U.N. FORCE EYED FOR SOMALIA:** The biggest U.N. peacekeeping force ever, with a mandate to impose order rather than just maintain it, may replace the U.S.-led military coalition in Somalia, a U.N. envoy said Wednesday./**A8**

▶ **THOUSANDS FLEE RUMBLING VOLCANO:** Thousands of people living near the Mayon volcano in the Philippines continued to flee their homes Wednesday after geologists warned a major volcano eruption could occur within days./**A9**

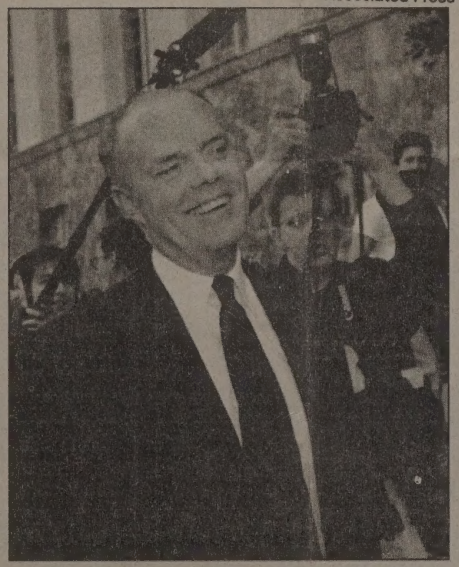
OPINION

▶ **COSTLY CAB FARE:** Colorado's government regulation of taxis, limiting the number of operators in each city, has the clear aim of protecting economic entities powerful enough to hire lobbyists, writes columnist George F. Will./**A11**

STATE

▶ **FOUR GUN-CONTROL BILLS SHOT DOWN:**

Associated Press



New trial for officers

Sgt. Stacey Koon, one of four Los Angeles police officers facing federal charges in the beating of Rodney King, leaves the Los Angeles courthouse Wednesday after jury selection began in the trial. NATION/**A5**

BUSINESS

▶ **SALE TO NORWEST:** In a move that analysts say marks a retreat from a once expansionary vision, Citibank agreed Wednesday to sell most of its $2.3 billion Arizona banking unit to Norwest Corp. of Minneapolis./**B4**

PEOPLE, ETC.

Fighting homelessness

Proceeds from "Mr. Wendal," the new single by **Arrested Development**, will go to the American Coalition for the Homeless. The group will donate 50 percent of its profits, and EMI Records has agreed to match their contribution. The song's lyrics try to give the "ole bum" title character dignity and understanding. "We believe that homelessness is the fault of the government and the system," says lead singer **Speech**. "We decided that instead of merely blaming the system or complaining about it, we'd write about it and then also do something about it."

Farrell speaks out

Actor **Mike Farrell**, who played B.J. Hunicutt on "M-A-S-H," says the world's problems can't be blamed on government. "The policies articulated by our government are ours. We have to take responsibility for them," Farrell told an audience at Michigan's Winona State University on Tuesday. "Therefore, Vietnam is my responsibility, the destruction of Iraq is my responsibility, the extension of rights to women, minorities and gays is my responsibility." Farrell is a spokesman for Concern, an international refugee aid organization.

Queen threatens lawsuit

Attorneys for **Queen Elizabeth II** said Wednesday that she would sue the Sun, Britain's top-selling tabloid, over its decision in December to print an embargoed

On strike

Animal trainer Alexander Terekho was in his eighth day of a strik Wednesday at the Durov Anima Circus in Moscow. Terekhov, afte being given a pink slip and tol that his star elephant, Dasha, i being sent to breed in Ukraine, ha locked himself and the elephant i a stall and says he won't leav until he gets his job back. Lao presented Dasha to Soviet leade Leonid Brezhnev in 1982, and the elephant has entertained thou sands of children.

spokesman said, "We shall be vig orously defending the action." The suit would be the first mona chal lawsuit to go the distance since 1911, when **George V** won a libel action against a

Proposal/

From A1

fighting with each other," Strait said. "It's not going to help anybody. So the answer is, let's find a solution."

Walta declined to discuss details of his proposal but said it would reflect what both sides have said they want. Amendment 2 supporters say they don't want to discriminate against homosexuals, nor do they want them to have "special rights." On the other hand, homosexuals say they don't want "special rights" but fear that Amendment 2 would legalize discrimination.

Walta added that some groups and individuals — such as religious organizations and single-family homeowners — would be exempt.

But the proposal drew immediate fire from Colorado for Family Values, the Springs-based group that developed Amendment 2.

"We don't think there's anything wrong with Amendment 2, and neither do a majority of people in the state," said Will Perkins, Colorado for Family Values spokesman.

However, John Miller, a professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and one of nine people who sued to block Amendment 2, said the proposal could be a positive step.

"Anything which moves toward educating people and which guarantees the fundamental rights of gays and lesbians would be seen positively by me," said Miller, who still wants more details on the proposal.

Supporters would need to collect roughly 50,000 signatures from state voters to get their measure on the ballot, a process that would take several months.

But there's a dispute over whether it could go before voters as early as November.

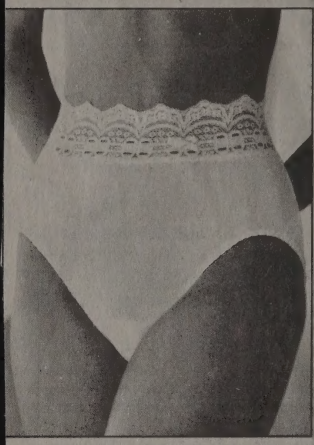
Under Amendment 1, the new tax-limitation measure passed by voters Nov. 3, such measures could go before voters in an odd-numbered year, instead of being delayed until the state's next general election in 1994, according to Amendment 1 author Douglas Bruce, a Colorado Springs landlord.

But the state Senate last week approved a bill that would permit only tax questions to be placed before voters in odd-numbered years.

what were they thinking of ??

REE!*

ID PANTIES!



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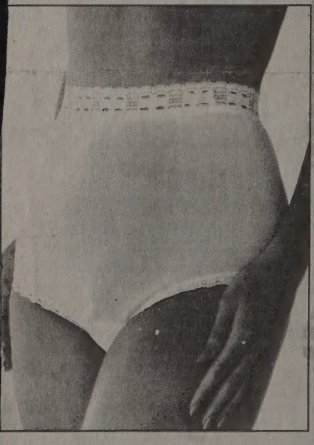

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